

**NICHOLAS & TOMASEVIC, LLP**

Craig M. Nicholas (SBN 178444)

Alex Tomasevic (SBN 245598)

Ethan T. Litney (SBN 295603)

225 Broadway, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor

San Diego, California 92101

Tel: (619) 325-0492

Fax: (619) 325-0496

Email: cnicholas@nicholaslaw.org

Email: atomasevic@nicholaslaw.org

Email: elitney@nicholaslaw.org

Attorneys for Plaintiffs,

NICHA LEASER, ATCHARA WONGSAROJ,

KATINA MAGEE, and JOYCE EISMAN

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

**EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

NICHA LEASER, ATCHARA WONGSAROJ,  
KATINA MAGEE, and JOYCE EISMAN,  
individually, and on behalf of others similarly  
situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

PRIME ASCOT, L.P., a California limited  
partnership; PRIME ASCOT ACQUISITION,  
LLC, a Delaware limited liability company;  
PRIME/PARK LABREA TITLEHOLDER,  
LLC, a Delaware limited liability company  
(originally sued as Doe 1); PRIME  
ADMINISTRATION, LLC, a Delaware limited  
liability company; PRIME CAMPINA, L.P., a  
California limited partnership (originally sued  
as Doe 2); PRIME CAMPINA  
ACQUISITIONS, LLC, a Delaware limited  
liability company (originally sued as Doe 3);  
PRIME CASSANNA, L.P., a California limited  
partnership (originally sued as Doe 4); PRIME  
OCEANSIDE ACQUISITION, LLC, a  
Delaware limited liability company (originally  
sued as Doe 5); PRIME CLAIREMONT, L.P., a  
California limited partnership (originally sued  
as Doe 6); PRIME CLAIREMONT  
ACQUISITION, LLC, a Delaware limited  
liability company (originally sued as Doe 7);  
PRIME DETROIT, LLC, a Delaware limited  
liability company (originally sued as Doe 8);  
PRIME MESA, L.P., a California limited  
partnership (originally sued as Doe 9); PRIME  
OLD COUNTY, L.P., a California limited  
partnership (originally sued as Doe 10); PRIME

Case No. 2:20-cv-02502-TLN-AC

**CLASS ACTION**

**SECOND AMENDED CLASS ACTION  
COMPLAINT FOR:**

- 1. TORTIOUS BREACH OF WARRANTY  
OF HABITABILITY;**
- 2. TORTIOUS BREACH OF WARRANTY  
OF QUIET POSSESSION AND  
ENJOYMENT;**
- 3. NEGLIGENCE;**
- 4. NUISANCE;**
- 5. INTENTIONAL  
MISREPRESENTATION;**
- 6. BREACH OF CONTRACT;**
- 7. VIOLATION OF CIVIL CODE  
SECTION 1950.5;**
- 8. VIOLATION OF BUSINESS &  
PROFESSIONS CODE SECTION 17200  
ET SET.**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

**Judge:** Hon. Troy L. Nunley

**Action Removed:** December 17, 2020

1 OLD COUNTY ACQUISITION, LLC, a  
2 Delaware limited liability company (originally  
3 sued as Doe 11); PRIME PENINSULA, L.P., a  
4 California limited partnership (originally sued  
5 as Doe 12); PRIME CHANNEL ISLANDS  
6 ACQUISITION, LLC, a Delaware limited  
7 liability company (originally sued as Doe 13);  
8 PRIME RIVERSHORE SPE, LLC, a Delaware  
9 limited liability company (originally sued as  
10 Doe 14); PRIME SPAIN GLEN DRIVE, LLC,  
11 a Delaware limited liability company (originally  
12 sued as Doe 15); PRIME SPECTRUM, LLC, a  
13 Delaware limited liability company (originally  
14 sued as Doe 16); PRIME TENNYSON, LLC, a  
15 Delaware limited liability company (originally  
16 sued as Doe 17); PRIME TOYON HOUSING  
17 PARTNERS, L.P., a California limited  
18 partnership (originally sued as Doe 18); PRIME  
19 TOYON ACQUISITION, LLC, a Delaware  
20 limited liability company (originally sued as  
21 Doe 19); PRIME VISTA MONTANA, LLC, a  
22 Delaware limited liability company (originally  
23 sued as Doe 20); PRIME WATERVIEW, LLC,  
24 a Delaware limited liability company (originally  
25 sued as Doe 21); PRIME WELLINGTON  
26 PARK, LLC, a Delaware limited liability  
27 company (originally sued as Doe 22);  
28 PRIME/CORAL BAY, L.P., a California  
limited partnership (originally sued as Doe 23);  
CORAL ACQUISITION, INC., a California  
corporation (originally sued as Doe 24);  
PRIME/DEVONSHIRE SPE, LLC, a Delaware  
limited liability company (originally sued as  
Doe 25); PRIME/SCRC, L.P., a California  
limited partnership (originally sued as Doe 26);  
PRIME/SCRC SPE, LLC, a Delaware limited  
liability company (originally sued as Doe 27);  
PRIME/SOUTH COAST, L.P. a California  
limited partnership (originally sued as Doe 28);  
PRIME SOUTH COAST HOLDING, LLC, a  
Delaware limited liability company (originally  
sued as Doe 29); PRIME VICTORIA, LLC, a  
Delaware limited liability company (originally  
sued as Doe 30) and Does 31 through 50,  
inclusive,

Defendants.

**NATURE OF CLAIMS**

1  
2 1. Defendants manage a portfolio of multi-family residential properties in California.  
3 This class action lawsuit is brought on behalf of all the tenants Defendants systematically  
4 overcharged for improper and unlawful late fees, early termination fees, improper rent charges, and  
5 from whom Defendants withheld full, fair, and timely refunds of security deposits. The suit also  
6 addresses Defendants’ management policies and practices that have led to disgusting infestations of  
7 vermin at these properties, which Defendants caused and routinely failed to disclose to prospective  
8 tenants, including Plaintiffs.

9 2. Plaintiffs Nicha Leaser, Atchara Wongsaroj, Katina Magee, and Joyce Eisman are  
10 Defendants’ former tenants, and victims.

11 3. Defendant Prime Administration, LLC functions as the “Prime Group” – and largely  
12 operates and manages the multi-family residential apartment properties in California that are the  
13 subject of this litigation.

14 4. Together, Defendants systematically, and as a matter of common policy and practice,  
15 overcharged tenants exorbitant penalties for late payment of rent. Defendants’ late fees are void  
16 under California law because, among other things, they are excessive and bear no relation to any  
17 actual damages incurred by Defendants when rent or other charges are paid late. Further, on  
18 information and belief, Defendants intentionally apply California tenants’ payment to their  
19 previously recorded debt first (including the assessed penalties), rather than the rent due for the  
20 month in which payment is actually made.

21 5. Defendants also improperly charged tenants “early termination” fees even when  
22 tenants provided adequate notice of termination, in violation of the Defendants’ leases. This too  
23 violated California law, including Civil Code section 1951.2.

24 6. Moreover, Defendants had a policy and practice of charging early termination fees  
25 regardless of the damages, if any, felt by Defendants by such “early” breaking of leases. As  
26 Defendants do not allow their tenants to sublease or assign their residences under Defendants’ form  
27 lease agreements, Defendants had and have a duty to attempt to re-rent tenants’ apartments to  
28 mitigate any potential damages from broken leases. But, on information and belief, Defendants

1 routinely imposed a *full* early termination fee on former tenants notwithstanding Defendants' efforts  
2 or lack thereof to mitigate damages. Upon information and belief, sometimes Defendants even  
3 collected double rent on one unit – one payment from the “early termination fee” taken from the  
4 former tenant, plus again in the form of regular rent covering the same time period and collected  
5 from the new tenant taking over the unit. This practice amounts to assessing, yet again, another  
6 illegal penalty void under California Civil Code § 1671(d) because it is excessive and bears no  
7 relation to any actual damages incurred by Defendants when tenants terminate their lease early.

8         7. Defendants, including Prime Administration, LLC, routinely demanded and collected  
9 security deposits from tenants and then failed to comply with California law regarding the charging  
10 and refunding of those security deposits. For example, on information and belief, Defendants,  
11 including Prime Administration, LLC, would often refuse to provide a properly itemized statement  
12 of deductions from tenants' security deposits within 21 days. This violates, at a minimum, Civil  
13 Code section 1950.5 and requires the return of every victim's security deposit, in full.

14         8. Finally, Defendants moved Plaintiffs Leaser, Wongsaroj, and Magee (and others) into  
15 vermin-infested units that, in reality, were uninhabitable. Plaintiffs did not discover these  
16 infestations until after they moved into their apartments. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that  
17 Defendants were aware of these infestations but failed to warn them and other prospective tenants  
18 of the uninhabitable conditions. Defendants' conduct, even if not intentional, was at least negligent  
19 and constitutes, at a minimum, a tortious breach of Defendants' warranty of habitability and warranty  
20 of quiet possession and enjoyment, and also constitutes a nuisance.

21         9. The above policies and practices also constitute “unfair competition” under the  
22 California Business and Professions Code. Further, Plaintiffs are also informed and believe that  
23 Defendants knowingly, intentionally, and regularly engaged in the above-alleged conduct in bad  
24 faith. Plaintiffs now bring this case to recoup the money they and their fellow tenants are owed and  
25 to stop the unlawful behavior.

## 26 **PARTIES**

27         10. Plaintiff Nicha Leaser (“Leaser”) is an individual, who resided at a Prime Group  
28 apartment located at 2000 Ascot Parkway, Vallejo, CA 94591, that was owned, managed, and

1 maintained by Defendants. She brings this lawsuit on her own behalf and on behalf of all others  
2 similarly situated.

3 11. Plaintiff Atchara Wongsaroj (“Wongsaroj”) is an individual, who also resided at a  
4 Prime Group apartment at 2000 Ascot Parkway, Vallejo, CA 94591, that was owned, managed, and  
5 maintained by Defendants. She brings this lawsuit on her own behalf and on behalf of all others  
6 similarly situated.

7 12. Plaintiff Katina Magee (“Magee”) is an individual, who resided at the same Prime  
8 Group apartment as Leaser and Wongsaroj, located at 2000 Ascot Parkway, Vallejo, CA 94591, that  
9 was owned, managed, and maintained by Defendants. She brings this lawsuit on her own behalf and  
10 on behalf of all others similarly situated.

11 13. Plaintiff Joyce Eisman (“Eisman”) is an individual, who resided at another Prime  
12 Group apartment located at 6200 W. 3rd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90036, that was owned, managed,  
13 and maintained by Defendants. She brings this lawsuit on her own behalf and on behalf of all others  
14 similarly situated.

15 14. Defendant Prime Ascot, L.P., is a California limited partnership with its principal  
16 place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment located at 2000  
17 Ascot Parkway, Vallejo, CA 94591, named Blue Rock Village.

18 15. Defendant Prime Ascot Acquisition, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company  
19 with its principal place of business in California, and is the general partner of Defendant Prime  
20 Ascot, L.P.

21 16. Defendant Prime/Park LaBrea Titleholder, LLC is a Delaware limited liability  
22 company with its principal place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group  
23 apartment located at 6200 W. 3rd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90036, named Park LaBrea. Defendant  
24 Prime/Park LaBrea Titleholder, LLC is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 1.”

25 17. Defendant Prime Administration, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with  
26 a principal place of business in California.

27 18. Defendant Prime Campina, L.P. is a California limited partnership with its principal  
28 place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment located at or near

1 9076 Campina Dr, La Mesa, CA 91942, named Park Grossmont. Defendant Prime Campina, L.P. is  
2 being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 2.”

3 19. Defendant Prime Campina Acquisition, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company  
4 with its principal place of business in California, and is the general partner of Defendant Prime  
5 Campina, L.P. Defendant Prime Campina Acquisition, LLC is being substituted for the entity  
6 originally sued as “Doe 3.”

7 20. Defendant Prime Cassanna, L.P. is a California limited partnership with its principal  
8 place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment located at or near  
9 4302 Cassanna Way, Oceanside, CA 92057, named Montecito Village. Defendant Prime Cassanna,  
10 L.P. is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 4.”

11 21. Defendant Prime Oceanside Acquisition, LLC is a Delaware limited liability  
12 company with its principal place of business in California, and is the general partner of Defendants  
13 Prime Cassanna, L.P, and Prime Mesa, L.P. Defendant Prime Oceanside Acquisition, LLC is being  
14 substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 5.”

15 22. Defendant Prime Clairemont, L.P. is a California limited partnership with its  
16 principal place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment located  
17 at or near 3103 Clairemont Drive, San Diego, CA 92117, named Coral Bay Summit Apartments.  
18 Defendant Prime Clairemont, L.P. is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 6.”

19 23. Defendant Prime Clairemont Acquisitions, LLC is a California limited liability  
20 company with its principal place of business in California, and is the general partner of Defendant  
21 Prime Clairemont, L.P. Defendant Prime Clairemont Acquisitions, LLC is being substituted for the  
22 entity originally sued as “Doe 7.”

23 24. Defendant Prime Detroit, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with its  
24 principal place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment located  
25 at or near 1441 Detroit Ave, Concord, CA 94520, named Concord 1441. Defendant Prime Detroit,  
26 LLC is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 8.”

27 25. Defendant Prime Mesa, L.P. is a California limited partnership with its principal  
28 place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment located at or near

1 3901 Mesa Dr, Oceanside, CA 92056, named Villages of Monterey. Defendant Prime Mesa, L.P. is  
2 being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 9.”

3 26. Defendant Prime Old County, L.P. is a California limited partnership with its  
4 principal place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment located  
5 at or near 649 Old County Rd, Belmont, CA 94002, named The Madison Belmont. Defendant Prime  
6 Old County, L.P. is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 10.”

7 27. Defendant Prime Old County Acquisition, LLC is a Delaware limited liability  
8 company with its principal place of business in California, and is the general partner of Defendant  
9 Prime Old County, L.P. Defendant Prime Old County Acquisition, LLC is being substituted for the  
10 entity originally sued as “Doe 11.”

11 28. Defendant Prime Peninsula, L.P is a California limited partnership with its principal  
12 place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment located at or near  
13 3100 Peninsula Rd, Oxnard, CA 93035, named Paz Mar. Defendant Prime Peninsula, L.P. is being  
14 substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 12.”

15 29. Defendant Prime Channel Islands Acquisition, LLC is a Delaware limited liability  
16 company with its principal place of business in California, and is the general partner of Defendant  
17 Prime Peninsula, L.P. Defendant Prime Channel Islands Acquisition, LLC is being substituted for  
18 the entity originally sued as “Doe 13.”

19 30. Defendant Prime Rivershore SPE, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with  
20 its principal place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment located  
21 at or near 1123 Shoreview Ct, Bay Point, CA 94565, named Rivershore. Defendant Prime Rivershore  
22 SPE, LLC is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 14.”

23 31. Defendant Prime Spain Glen Drive, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company  
24 with its principal place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment  
25 located at or near 550 River Glen Dr, Napa, CA 94558, named Kentwood Apartments. Defendant  
26 Prime Spain Glen Drive, LLC is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 15.”

27 32. Defendant Prime Spectrum, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with its  
28 principal place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment located



1 at or near 8811 Spectrum Center Blvd, San Diego, CA 92123, named Avion at Spectrum. Defendant  
2 Prime Spectrum, LLC is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 16.”

3 33. Defendant Prime Tennyson, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with its  
4 principal place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment located  
5 at or near 655 Tennyson Rd, Hayward, CA 94544, named MetroSix55. Defendant Prime Tennyson,  
6 LLC is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 17.”

7 34. Defendant Prime Toyon Housing Partners, L.P. is a California limited partnership  
8 with its principal place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment  
9 located at or near 448 Toyon Ave, San Jose, CA 95127, named Fairway Glen. Defendant Prime  
10 Toyon Housing Partners, L.P. is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 18.”

11 35. Defendant Prime Toyon Acquisition, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company  
12 with its principal place of business in California, and is the general partner of Defendant Prime  
13 Toyon Housing Partners, L.P. Defendant Prime Toyon Acquisition, LLC is being substituted for the  
14 entity originally sued as “Doe 19.”

15 36. Defendant Prime Vista Montana, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with  
16 its principal place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment located  
17 at or near 1 Vista Montana, San Jose, CA 95134, named Domain Apartments. Defendant Prime Vista  
18 Montana, LLC is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 20.”

19 37. Defendant Prime Waterview, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with its  
20 principal place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment located  
21 at or near 801 Southamptn Rd, Benicia, CA 94510, named Waterview. Defendant Prime  
22 Waterview, LLC is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 21.”

23 38. Defendant Prime Wellington Park, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with  
24 its principal place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment located  
25 at or near 8600 International Avenue, Canoga Park, CA 91304, named Fountain Park. Defendant  
26 Prime Wellington Park, LLC is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 22.”

27 39. Defendant Prime/Coral Bay, L.P. is a California limited partnership with its principal  
28 place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment located at 3309



1 Cowley Way, San Diego, CA 92117, named Coral Bay Apartments. Defendant Prime/Coral Bay,  
2 L.P. is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 23.”

3 40. Defendant Coral Acquisition, Inc. is a California corporation with its principal place  
4 of business in California, and is the general partner of Prime/Coral Bay, L.P. Defendant Coral  
5 Acquisition, Inc. is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 24.”

6 41. Defendant Prime Devonshire SPE, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with  
7 its principal place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment located  
8 at or near 18013 Devonshire St, Northridge, CA 91325, named Cambridge on Devonshire.  
9 Defendant Prime Devonshire SPE, LLC is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe  
10 25.”

11 42. Defendant Prime/SCRC, L.P. is a California limited partnership with its principal  
12 place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment located at or near  
13 3800 S Flower St, Santa Ana, CA 92707, named Courtyards at South Coast. Defendant Prime/SCRC,  
14 L.P. is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 26.”

15 43. Defendant Prime/SCRC SPE, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with its  
16 principal place of business in California, and is the general partner of Defendant Prime/SCRC, L.P.  
17 Defendant Prime/SCRC SPE, LLC is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 27.”

18 44. Defendant Prime/South Coast, L.P. is a California limited partnership with its  
19 principal place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment located  
20 at or near 1101 W Stevens Ave, Santa Ana, CA 92707, named South Coast Racquet Club. Defendant  
21 Prime/South Coast, L.P. is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 28.”

22 45. Defendant Prime/South Coast Holding, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company  
23 with its principal place of business in California, and is the general partner of Prime/South Coast,  
24 L.P. Defendant Prime/South Coast Holding, LLC is being substituted for the entity originally sued  
25 as “Doe 29.”

26 46. Defendant Prime Victoria, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with its  
27 principal place of business in California, and is the titleholder of a Prime Group apartment located  
28 at or near 555 South Park Victoria Drive, Milpitas, CA 95035, named 555 Apartment Homes.

Defendant Prime Victoria, LLC is being substituted for the entity originally sued as “Doe 30.”

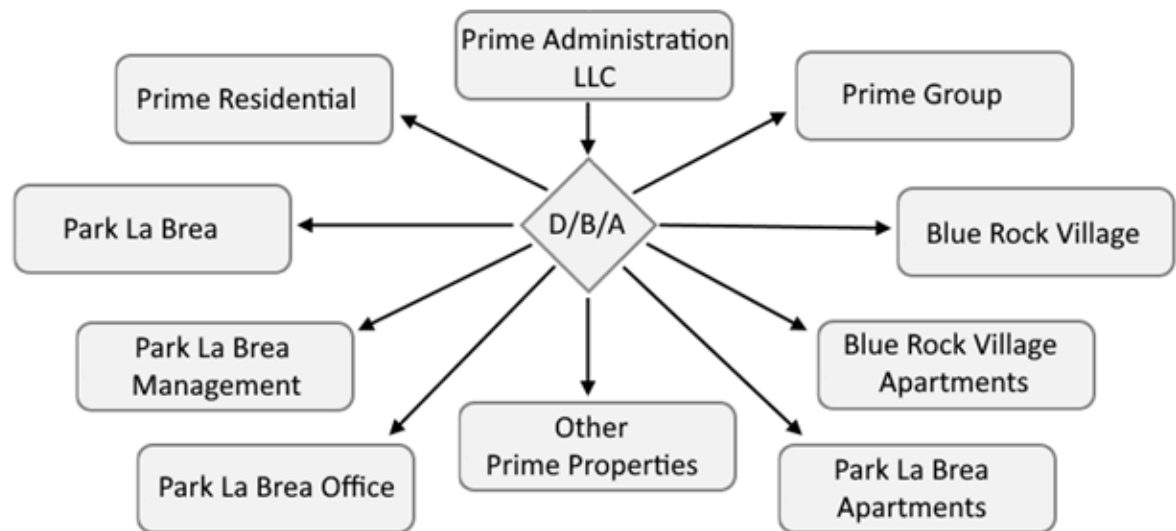
## **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

### **DEFENDANTS’ MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY ENTERPRISE**

47. The Prime Group is a multi-family residential property enterprise throughout the State of California, including the following apartment complexes: Avion at Spectrum, Blue Rock Village, Cambridge at Devonshire, Concord 1441, Coral Bay Apartments, Coral Bay Summit Apartments, Courtyards at South Coast, Domain Apartments, Fairway Glen, Fountain Park, Kentwood Apartments, MetroSix55, Montecito Village, Park Grossmont, Park LaBrea, Paz Mar, Rivershore, South Coast Racquet Club, The Madison Belmont, Villages of Monterey, Waterview, and 555 Apartment Homes (collectively the “Prime Properties”).<sup>1</sup>

48. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that all Prime Properties are primarily operated and managed through the same Defendant, Prime Administration, LLC (“Prime Administration”).

49. The Prime Properties are owned by the separate limited partnerships or limited liability company Defendants named in this Complaint, but on information and belief are all ultimately controlled and operated by Prime Administration, who publicly does business as the various Prime Properties, and also does business as the Prime Group and Prime Residential, as depicted below.



<sup>1</sup> All of these properties can be viewed at the “Prime Group Residential” or “Prime Residential” website under its “Find A Home” webpage, located at: <https://www.primeapts.com/community-search-list-view.aspx>.

50. Relevantly, the Prime Group website (www.primegrp.com) states: “Prime Residential [i.e., a d/b/a of Prime Administration, LLC] focuses on long-term ownership of multifamily investments in major markets along the west coast. The firm today ***owns and operates*** over 15,000 units in California, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada” (emphasis added). Further, the Prime Residential website (www.primegrp.com/prime-residential/) states: “Prime Residential owns more than 15,000 units located in over 30 communities across the West Coast, utilizing its in-house management platform to drive cash flow growth over long hold periods. Founded in 1989, Prime Residential creates value through ***disciplined acquisitions, thoughtful capital structures***, targeted reinvestment, ***and superior management***” (emphasis added). Indeed, on information and belief, the same group of individuals operates and manages both Prime Administration and the entities holding title to the Prime Properties. On information and belief, these limited partnerships and limited liability company titleholders are merely instrumentalities of Prime Administration, are all part of the same scheme, and are controlled and managed collectively. To the extent the nominal titleholders have any independent existence, they are co-conspirators and aiders and abettors of Prime Administration in committing the conduct described in this Complaint. The nominal titleholders knowingly participating in the common scheme and giving substantial assistance and encouragement to Prime Administration, including allowing Prime Administration to implement and effectuate the unfair and unlawful policies and practices described in this Complaint at the various Prime Properties owned by the nominal titleholders.

51. The aforementioned limited partnerships and limited liability companies that hold title to the Prime Properties, which are also named Defendants, are usually named for the Prime Property at issue, typically using the street address or name of the property in the name of the entity, as described above. For example, the limited partnership nominally affiliated with Blue Rock Village is Defendant Prime Ascot, L.P., whereas that property is located on Ascot Parkway.

52. In addition to Prime Administration’s public admissions, common operation, management, and control of the Prime Properties can also be discerned by Defendants’ own lease agreements. On information and belief, at any time, the Prime Properties’ leases utilize substantially the same form, i.e. form leases where the information regarding the lessors (Defendants), lessees

(Plaintiffs and other tenants), the term of the lease, and the base rent are simply imported into each lease form.

53. Sometimes the leases are grouped into regions containing many of the Prime Properties. For example, Plaintiffs Leaser and Wongsaroj signed a lease agreement that clearly refers to itself as a “Nor[thern]Cal[ifornia] Lease Packet” and a “No[rthern]Cal[ifornia] Lease Agreement,” demonstrating that the same lease terms applied at the time to at least the Prime Properties located in the northern portion of California.<sup>2</sup> The lease forms themselves also have the words “Prime Residential” stamped in the top left corner of every page (a d/b/a of Prime Administration, LLC), and identify the “company” on the lease as “Prime Administration LLC dba Prime Group.”

54. On information and belief, important management decisions and policies are not usually specific to a particular Prime Property, but are common and shared among all Prime Properties. As described above, the same group of individuals appears to manage and operate all of the Prime Properties. As an additional example, Defendants also use the same employees or agents identified as “management” at any particular property to inform tenants of Defendants’ policies and procedures at many or all of the Prime Properties, and address negative feedback from residents on public forums.<sup>3</sup>

55. Further, review websites such as Yelp.com, Apartments.com, Apartmentratings.com, etc., provide additional evidence that the Prime Properties utilize common policies and practices, and demonstrate that residents of all of the Prime Properties in California are similarly affected.

56. Indeed, myriad reviews from various Prime Properties discuss the assessment of improper late fees.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup> See Plaintiff Leaser and Wongsaroj’s lease agreement, which is attached as Attachment A and incorporated by reference into this Complaint.

<sup>3</sup> The Prime Group website identifies a common team of employees for “Prime Residential” (<https://www.primegrp.com/team/>). Also, on Yelp.com the same account with the same profile photograph identifies itself as the one “Business Manager” of most, if not all, of the Prime Properties.

<sup>4</sup> Demonstrative examples include the following: “This place continues to frustrate, disappoint and over charge, I was charged a \$60.00 late fee for short paying by \$0.34, yes THIRTY FOUR CENTS.” (Yelp Review of Park La Brea, available at: <https://www.yelp.com/biz/park-la-brea-apartments-los-angeles-5?hrid=QVvQ9DfJZvDaMhNjCeyAyQ>); “We took our rent this month (under new management) on the 4th and were charged a \$250 late fee. WTF!??? Who charges that

57. Similarly, online reviews from various Prime Properties discuss the assessment of improper early termination fees,<sup>5</sup> unlawful rent charges after providing thirty (30) days notice to vacate,<sup>6</sup> failure to return security deposits or provide an itemized statement of deductions from security deposits or receipts related thereto within 21 days.<sup>7</sup>

much!???? That's highway robbery. That's GREED.” (Yelp review of MetroSix55, available at: <https://www.yelp.com/biz/metro-six55-apartments-hayward-2?hrid=ozHbe0gG-VI71PTSgefsPQ>); “[T]hey called and said I owe a late fee and non sufficient fund. I had the money in the bank. So I went to speak to the office and was told that I entered the wrong account number. So I guess I'm supposed to just take their word for that because they told me they cannot show me the "wrong account" I entered due to privacy. So I paid almost \$200 extra.” (Yelp review of Montecito Village, available at: <https://www.yelp.com/biz/montecito-village-oceanside?hrid=RQZtJSsBPm-5yYEBbnqtOA>); “[I] paid my rent on time through the application, the system took a few days to process it and they charged me a late fee.” (Yelp Review of The Villages of Monterey: [https://www.yelp.com/biz/the-villages-of-monterey-oceanside?hrid=vZD8AEi\\_2M7wHFXqxPRMcA](https://www.yelp.com/biz/the-villages-of-monterey-oceanside?hrid=vZD8AEi_2M7wHFXqxPRMcA)). “When you complain or refuse to pay a late fee, they charge you another late fee because they withhold late fee from your rent to make it seem like you didn't pay your rent in full.” (Yelp Review of Park LaBrea, available at: <https://www.yelp.com/biz/park-la-brea-apartments-los-angeles-5?hrid=g8bcsxk6-Lg0hG1pgq4RRw>).

<sup>5</sup> Demonstrative examples include the following: “[W]e had enough and went to go see PLB management about getting an early termination of our lease. At this point, neither of us were even living in there, it was so awful ... PLB basically ignored our attempts to try to legally file to end our lease early.” (Yelp Review of Park La Brea, available at: <https://www.yelp.com/biz/park-la-brea-apartments-los-angeles-5?hrid=O6iOf6NQE6wlkj8eCzhbCg>); “Never responded to our 30 day notice, we were told we would NOT be charged an early termination fee because we moved out for very serious reasons....black mold growing all over the apartment, they refuse to take care of the issue, the ac leaks, the heater could not be turned on because of the smoke smell and the fact that it set off the fire detectors each time, it was infested with roaches and other bugs, the security guard kept taking pictures of my roommate's daughter which is very unsettling, now that we've moved they're trying to add on an early termination fee.” (Yelp Review of Rivershore, available at: <https://www.yelp.com/biz/rivershore-apartments-bay-point?hrid=rCDwZ2c6C6vBA8yfQdc4ew>).

<sup>6</sup> Demonstrative examples include the following: “[Final statement] listed that I extended my stay for an additional 2 weeks after my lease and that was where the additional prorated charges stemmed. I vacated the apartment 2 weeks BEFORE my lease ended and returned my keys and fobs night before the end date.” (Yelp Review of MetroSix55, available at: <https://www.yelp.com/biz/metro-six55-apartments-hayward-2?hrid=o1dD25piQaetyQEleAehTg>); “She claimed that we owed them close to \$800 when that's actually what they owed US because they had failed to prorate our last month. She was very rude and insistent that we owed them money along with late fees. She refused to listen to anything we had to say or even try to understand.” (Yelp Review of The Villages at Monterey, available at: [https://www.yelp.com/biz/the-villages-of-monterey-oceanside?hrid=0txrJPjg\\_JCwV8x398WUnQ](https://www.yelp.com/biz/the-villages-of-monterey-oceanside?hrid=0txrJPjg_JCwV8x398WUnQ)).

<sup>7</sup> Demonstrative examples include the following: “They also didn't return our security deposit within 21 days of vacating the premises as required by California State law, and nobody in the office knew anything about it, bothered to find out, or offer any help rectifying the situation.” (Yelp Review of Coral Bay Apartments, available at: [https://www.yelp.com/biz/coral-bay-apartments-san-diego?hrid=8iomyp2GjHTut1\\_UXQP1Cw](https://www.yelp.com/biz/coral-bay-apartments-san-diego?hrid=8iomyp2GjHTut1_UXQP1Cw)); “What do you know...MONTHS later still no return of our deposit. Don't tell me to contact the manager-THEY NEVER RETURN EMAILS OR CALLS.” (Yelp Review of Courtyards at South Coast, available at: <https://www.yelp.com/biz/courtyards-at-south-coast-apartments-santa-ana-2?hrid=kesMgbBGxuKzWO1Mj22uiA>). “It's been THREE MONTHS and they still haven't

58. Defendants all knowingly participated in the common scheme described herein, including, on information and belief, the application of common unlawful and unfair policies and practices to the tenants of all of the Prime Properties, which were primarily administered and effectuated by Prime Administration. Defendants all knowingly aided and abetted the violations of law described in this Complaint and knowingly aided and abetted the conduct related to the scheme, agreed to commit the unlawful and unfair conduct, and gave substantial assistance and encouragement in committing the unlawful and unfair conduct.

59. Further, at all times mentioned, Defendants were the agents, servants, or employees for one another, and acted with the consent of the other Co-Defendants and acted within the course, purpose, and scope of their agency, service, or employment. In particular, Prime Administration acted as the agent of all other named Defendants in administering and effectuating the unfair and unlawful conduct described here, which was committed within the scope of Prime Administration's agency and actual and apparent authority.

60. In addition, on information and belief, Defendants furnished the means and induced one another to commit violations of the California Unfair Competition Law (Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 et seq.) (the "UCL") described in this Complaint, and all Defendants directly and indirectly benefited from Plaintiffs' and the proposed class members' losses related to the unfair and unlawful business practices described in this Complaint.

## **MORE ALLEGATIONS SPECIFIC TO PLAINTIFFS' TENANCIES**

### **Plaintiffs Leaser and Wongsaroj**

61. Shortly before May 25, 2017, Plaintiffs Leaser and Wongsaroj entered into a written lease agreement with Defendant Prime Ascot, L.P. for an apartment that at all times was to be occupied by Wongsaroj (the "Leaser Apartment"). Leaser and Wongsaroj both advised Defendants that Wongsaroj would be occupying the Leaser Apartment. The term of the lease was for approximately one year, beginning on May 28, 2017 and ending on May 15, 2018. The monthly rent

returned the remaining security deposit owed to us. I called Domain office and the receptionist said that she doesn't know because Carla has been out for a month." (Yelp Review of Domain Apartments, available at: <https://www.yelp.com/biz/domain-apartments-san-diego-4?hrid=VjYvz6L6DZxHNDAeEtwnA>).



1 was \$1,390.00, with an application fee of \$80.00 and a security deposit of \$500.00. On or about May  
2 25, 2017, Prime Administration collected a \$200 security deposit from Leaser and Wongsaroj in  
3 connection with their application and lease. On information and belief, the lease Leaser and  
4 Wongsaroj signed was a standard form lease that Defendants used for all apartments at Blue Rock  
5 Village. Leaser and Wongsaroj are also informed and believe and thereon allege that the lease they  
6 signed was substantially similar to the lease that Defendants use for all of the Prime Properties in  
7 the State of California, including those entered into by Plaintiffs Magee and Eisman.

8 62. Wongsaroj moved into the apartment in early June 2017. The cost of the move was  
9 approximately \$ 1,237.50 paid to the moving company, plus several hundred dollars in incidental  
10 expenses.

11 63. Unbeknownst to Leaser and Wongsaroj, at the time Wongsaroj moved in, the Leaser  
12 Apartment was infested with mice. The infestation rendered the Leaser Apartment uninhabitable.  
13 Leaser and Wongsaroj did not discover the infestation until after Wongsaroj moved into the Leaser  
14 Apartment.

15 64. Leaser and Wongsaroj are informed and believe and thereon allege that the entire  
16 building within Blue Rock Village in which the Leaser Apartment is located was infested with mice  
17 at the time Leaser and Wongsaroj signed the lease, and that Defendants knew of the infestation at  
18 that time. Despite this knowledge, Defendants failed to disclose the infestation to Leaser and  
19 Wongsaroj. In addition, Leaser and Wongsaroj would not have signed the lease, and Wongsaroj  
20 would not have moved into the Leaser Apartment, had Leaser and Wongsaroj known of the  
21 infestation.

22 65. Leaser and Wongsaroj complained to Defendants on many occasions about the mouse  
23 infestation, both orally and in writing. Despite their complaints, Defendants failed to remedy the  
24 condition and make the Leaser Apartment habitable.

25 66. Wongsaroj's and Leaser's conduct did not contribute to the presence of the mice in  
26 the Leaser Apartment or the building where the Leaser Apartment is situated.



1           67.     Wongsaroj suffers from an emotional illness, and her therapist recommended that  
2     Wongsaroj obtain an emotional support animal. Wongsaroj obtained a dog as an emotional support  
3     animal and advised Defendants of this on May 29, 2017.

4           68.     The infestation of mice in the Leaser Apartment aggravated Wongsaroj's emotional  
5     condition, and caused her a loss of sleep, nausea, vomiting, headaches, and anxiety.

6           69.     Wongsaroj also stopped cooking and eating in the Leaser Apartment as a result of the  
7     infestation, due to a fear of contamination.

8           70.     The infestation of mice also damaged and/or destroyed personal property belonging  
9     to Wongsaroj, including a collection of books in the Thai language that cannot be replaced.

10          71.     Leaser and Wongsaroj are further informed and believe and thereon allege that  
11     Defendants at all times have known of the infestation in Blue Rock Village, failed to take adequate  
12     steps to address the infestation, and continued to rent apartments in Blue Rock Village to prospective  
13     and actual tenants (such as Plaintiffs Leaser, Wongsaroj, and Magee) while knowing that the  
14     infestation continued unresolved.

15          72.     Defendants' failure to remediate the infestation caused Wongsaroj to move out of the  
16     Leaser Apartment on November 5, 2017. Wongsaroj and Leaser promptly notified Prime  
17     Administration of their move after they had vacated the Leaser Apartment, and promptly returned  
18     the keys to the Leaser Apartment. As such, Wongsaroj and Leaser vacated the Apartment on  
19     November 5, 2017. The cost of the move to Leaser and Wongsaroj was \$1,100.00.

20          73.     Wongsaroj moved into an apartment comparable to the one she had at the Blue Rock  
21     Village, but her monthly rent has increased to \$1,625.00 per month.

22          74.     Leaser and Wongsaroj paid rent in full for the Leaser Apartment between May 25,  
23     2017 and November 30, 2017 in the amount of \$8,519.35. Further, Leaser and Wongsaroj were also  
24     charged an additional \$44.84 for rent for December 1, 2017.

25          75.     During the time that Leaser and Wongsaroj occupied the apartment, Defendants  
26     charged Leaser and Wongsaroj improper and exorbitant late fees, based on assessments for charges  
27     for sewer, water, and garbage. The late fees were caused because charges would be posted by  
28

1 Defendants to Leaser's and Wongsaroj's accounts after they were due and thus could not be paid on  
2 time.

3 76. These fees of \$75 were unconscionably large, given the amount of the charges  
4 involved and the amount of damages, if any, Defendants would suffer because of any late payment.

5 77. Leaser and Wongsaroj would typically challenge the late fees, and the fees would be  
6 removed. But Defendants had and have a policy of improperly charging other tenants for these fees  
7 and collecting them, and not all were challenged.

8 78. On or about December 1, 2017, Leaser and Wongsaroj received a letter from Prime  
9 Administration through its employee Michael Denham, including an attached "final account  
10 statement" itemizing certain charges/deductions from their security deposit. The December 1  
11 correspondence from Denham included a large "PRIME group" graphic and Denham's  
12 "primegrp.com" email address. The charges on the final account statement included the following:

- 13 a. A charge for rent for December 1, to December 9, 2017, of \$417.00.
- 14 b. An early termination fee of \$1,390.00.
- 15 c. A carpet cleaning charge of \$75.00.
- 16 d. A charge of \$40.00 for other cleaning.
- 17 e. A charge of \$160.83 for the pro-rated estimated cost of repainting the Leaser  
18 Apartment prorated based on a 36-month useful life.

19 79. Defendants, including Prime Administration, refused to give Leaser and Wongsaroj  
20 any of the receipts for the alleged expenses or deductions from the security deposit, as required by  
21 California Civil Code section 1950.5. Defendant Prime Administration also mailed the final account  
22 statement including notice of charges to the security deposit outside of the 21-day window allowed  
23 pursuant to California Civil Code section 1950.5(g). On or about December 15, 2017, Leaser and  
24 Wongsaroj's then-counsel sent correspondence via email to Prime Administration objecting to Prime  
25 Administration's use of Leaser and Wongsaroj's security deposit to pay an early termination fee, as  
26 well as objecting to the propriety of certain charges listed on the final account statement, among  
27 other issues. On or about December 15, 2017, Michael Denham prepared a "revised" final account  
28 statement that removed the early termination fee charge and lowered the rent charge to \$44.84 to

1 reflect the fact that a new resident had moved into Leaser and Wongsaroj's apartment on December  
2 2, 2017; these changes resulted in Leaser and Wongsaroj being owed a refund of \$13.28 based on  
3 the revised final account statement. Leaser and Wongsaroj never received any refund.

4 80. Defendants, including Prime Administration, have failed to return all monies owed  
5 Leaser's and Wongsaroj, including their security deposit which was improperly withheld and  
6 improperly charged, including a charge for a prorated amount for painting based on a 36-month  
7 useful life. Leaser and Wongsaroj have been damaged and lost money or property as a result of  
8 Defendants' business practices.

9 **Plaintiff Magee**

10 81. On or around August 2016, Plaintiff Magee entered into a written lease agreement  
11 with Defendant Prime Ascot, L.P. for an apartment (the "Magee Apartment") in the same complex  
12 as Leaser and Wongsaroj. Magee does not have a copy of her lease agreement, but on information  
13 and belief it is substantially similar to Attachment A. The term of the lease was approximately one  
14 year, beginning on or around August 1, 2016. The monthly rent was \$1,646.00. Magee was never  
15 warned or informed of any vermin infestation prior to executing the lease agreement. On or about  
16 July 15, 2016, Defendant Prime Administration collected a \$40 application fee and a \$99 security  
17 deposit from Magee in connection with her application and lease.

18 82. Notably, the Magee Apartment was over 300 feet away from the Leaser Apartment  
19 across the Blue Rock Village complex.

20 83. Shortly after moving into her apartment, when Magee was approximately six months  
21 pregnant, a mouse ran over her foot while she was cooking breakfast. This troubling incident led  
22 Magee to find out that her apartment suffered from a serious infestation of mice, resulting in visible  
23 mice damage, visible mice feces, and the presence of mice in the open in the apartment.

24 84. Magee's conduct did not contribute to the presence of the mice in the Magee  
25 Apartment or the building where the Magee Apartment is situated.

26 85. Magee brought this issue to Defendants' attention, including providing pictures of  
27 the several mice she caught in the open to Defendants. Defendants promised to move Magee to a  
28 different unit on multiple occasions, but ultimately failed to do so.

1           86.     On December 17, 2016 Magee was so frustrated by the infestation that she sent an  
2 email to management stating, in pertinent part:

3  
4           I am furious! I am tired of dealing with this. This is not okay at all in any way,  
5           shape, form or fashion! I am letting you know that I refuse to pay rent in a place  
6           where every single month I am dealing with this. I have children who live in this  
7           unit! No one from management seems to care about my family's safety nor health  
8           in these apartments because if anyone did, this issue would've been resolved!

9           87.     Eventually Magee withheld rent on the basis that the premises were infested with  
10 vermin and uninhabitable, and implored Defendants to transfer her to another apartment. Defendants  
11 ultimately offered Magee to transfer to another unit at the same monthly rent. However, as the  
12 offered unit was smaller and had downgraded features, Magee declined the transfer as it was not  
13 comparable to her current unit, and continued to withhold rent.

14           88.     During this time, Defendants refused to acknowledge that this condition was their  
15 responsibility, refused to disclose that other tenants were having the same problem at the same  
16 property, and charged Magee exorbitant “late” fee penalties relating to the rent. This was not the  
17 first time Defendants had charged Magee exorbitant late fees. Previously, Defendants had charged  
18 Magee late fee penalties despite Magee only having paid rent a few days late, which she paid to  
19 Defendants.

20           89.     Eventually Defendants admitted “there ha[d] been an emergence of field mice.” Yet  
21 they argued that Magee’s apartment was “habitable” notwithstanding the infestation and improperly  
22 threatened to evict Magee for withholding rent.

23           90.     Defendants, including Prime Administration, ultimately evicted Magee on April 27,  
24 2017 and Prime Administration retained her entire security deposit. On or about May 5, 2017, Prime  
25 Administration sent Magee correspondence through Michael Denham, on letterhead that included  
26 Prime Administration’s “PRIME group” logo. In the correspondence, Prime Administration,  
27 identified certain charges to Magee’s account/deductions from Magee’s security deposit in a final  
28 account statement. Michael Denham prepared the final account statement on or about May 5, 2017,  
identifying deductions/charges made by Prime Administration in relation to late fees, legal charges,  
and other charges ostensibly relating to the condition of Magee’s apartment, including cleaning and

1 painting, among others. As it did with Ms. Leaser and Ms. Wongsaroj, Prime Administration  
2 withheld Magee's security deposit without providing the documentation or information required  
3 under California Civil Code 1950.5. Indeed, it was Defendants' (including Prime Administration's)  
4 common practice and policy not to properly document any security deposit charges thereby  
5 disqualifying Defendants from ever being able to keep *any* of those security deposits. Moreover,  
6 Defendants, including Prime Administration, continue to attempt to collect from Magee. Magee has  
7 been damaged by Defendants' practices and has lost money or property as a result.

8 91. Further, Magee is informed and believes that Defendants either did not engage in a  
9 reasonable endeavor to determine Defendants' average costs from late payment of rent prior to  
10 charging Magee late fees, or that Defendants charged Magee late fees knowing that the late fees  
11 Magee was charged and paid were not a reasonable estimate of Defendants' costs from Magee's  
12 alleged late payment of rent.

13 **Plaintiff Eisman**

14 92. On or about August 2015, Plaintiff Eisman entered into a written lease agreement  
15 with Defendant Prime/Park LaBrea Titleholder, LLC for an apartment at their Park LaBrea property.  
16 Eisman does not have a copy of her lease agreement, but on information and belief it is substantially  
17 similar to Attachment A. On or about August 1, 2015, Prime Administration, doing business as  
18 "Prime Group," collected a \$40 application fee from Eisman, and collected \$500 of Eisman's  
19 security deposit in connection with Plaintiff Eisman's application and lease, where Plaintiff Eisman  
20 provided her credit card information. On or about September 4, 2015, Prime Administration  
21 collected another \$500 of Ms. Eisman's total \$1,000 security deposit via Cashier's Check. Collection  
22 of the \$500 security deposit was confirmed in Prime Administration's electronic systems (including  
23 the specific number of the cashier's check) at the time by Evelyn Sterud, an individual who publicly  
24 holds themselves out as and is believed to be a current or former employee of Prime Administration  
25 and who was acting on Prime Administration's behalf.

26 93. On April 6, 2017, Eisman visited Defendants' management office and filled out  
27 paperwork to exercise her option to terminate her lease early under her written lease agreement by  
28

1 providing 30 days advanced notice. On May 6, 2017, Eisman moved out of her apartment and  
2 returned her keys and gate remote control to Defendants.

3 94. Defendants, including Prime Administration, charged Eisman an early termination  
4 fee and a late fee despite Eisman providing 30 days advanced notice. More than 21 days after  
5 vacating her apartment, Eisman was provided a final account statement by Prime Administration  
6 that improperly listed her date of giving notice as May 30, 2017, rather than April 6, 2017, and  
7 improperly listed her move out date as May 25, 2017 (i.e., *before* Eisman allegedly provided notice  
8 on May 30, 2017). Eisman's final account statement was prepared on or about May 30, 2017, by  
9 Ileana Firchau, an individual who publicly holds themselves out as and is believed to be a current or  
10 former employee of Prime Administration that was acting on Prime Administration's behalf. The  
11 final account statement included identification of certain charges to Eisman's account/deductions  
12 from Eisman's security deposit. Eisman also corresponded with Prime Administration about the  
13 accuracy of her final account statement and the deductions/charges made by Prime Administration  
14 in relation the condition of her apartment, including carpet replacement, and painting, among other  
15 deductions/charges she disputed.

16 95. Defendants, including Prime Administration, deducted these early termination fee  
17 and late fee charges from Eisman's security deposit, which was wholly retained by Defendants.

18 96. Defendants, including Prime Administration, also charged Eisman an additional  
19 \$1,200 for cleaning, carpet replacement, item removal, and painting. Even though Eisman returned  
20 her keys and gate remote when she vacated her apartment, she was also charged \$100 by Prime  
21 Administration for allegedly failing to return these items. Prime Administration, again, refused to  
22 provide Eisman the information required under California Civil Code 1950.5 in relation to its  
23 retention of her security deposit and have continued to attempt to collect money from Eisman.  
24 Eisman has been damaged as a result of Defendants' practices and has lost money or property as a  
25 result.

26 97. Further, Eisman is informed and believes that Defendants either did not engage in a  
27 reasonable endeavor to determine Defendants' average costs from late payment of rent prior to  
28 charging Eisman late fees, or that Defendants charged Eisman late fees knowing that the late fees

1 Eisman was charged and paid were not a reasonable estimate of Defendants' costs from Eisman's  
2 alleged late payment of rent.

3 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

4 98. Plaintiffs bring this action as a class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules  
5 of Civil Procedure on behalf of the following proposed classes:

6 **The Habitability Class**

7 a. All persons who leased an apartment at Blue Rock Village who experienced an  
8 infestation of vermin during the class period<sup>8</sup>;

9 **The Excessive Fees Class**

10 b. All persons who leased an apartment at one of the Prime Properties in California,  
11 who during the class period paid at least one of the following:

12 i. late fees; including late fees for late rent or based on assessments for charges  
13 for sewer, water, and garbage;

14 ii. an "early termination fee";

15 iii. fees or charges to cover rent for any day after the 30<sup>th</sup> day following the  
16 tenant's notice of intent to vacate;

17 **The Security Deposit Class**

18 c. All persons who leased an apartment at one of the Prime Properties in California,  
19 who during the class period, did not receive a full refund of their security deposit and was not  
20 personally delivered or mailed an itemized statement indicating the basis for, and the amount of the  
21 security deposit retained within 21 days. Within this class exists a "paint charges" sub-class  
22 including all members of this Security Deposit Class who had deductions made from their security  
23 deposits for prorated re-painting of their apartment based on a 36-month useful life for the paint.

24 99. Excluded from these classes are any and all officers or directors of any of the  
25 Defendants, or members of the immediate families of those officers and directors, as well as the  
26 Judge assigned to this case and his or her immediate family.

27  
28 <sup>8</sup> "Class period" means the maximum time allowable under the appropriate statutes of limitations periods after adding all appropriate tolling.



1           100. The members of each class are so numerous that joinder of all members is  
2 impracticable. The Prime Properties operated by Defendants collectively are estimated to contain  
3 over 10,000 apartments. The exact number of aggregate class members will be determined by  
4 appropriate discovery but is expected to exceed 10,000 persons. Members of the proposed classes  
5 can be identified from records maintained by Defendants and can be notified of the pendency of this  
6 action by mail using a form of notice typically used in class action litigation.

7           101. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the members of the class, as all members  
8 of the each class are similarly affected by Defendants' wrongful conduct as alleged herein.

9           102. Plaintiffs can and will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of  
10 the class and have no interests antagonistic to or in conflict with those members.

11           103. Plaintiffs' counsel are competent to handle a class action.

12           104. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of each class. In addition,  
13 these common questions predominate over any questions solely affecting individual class members.  
14 Among the questions of law and fact common to the class are:

- 15           a. Whether the apartments at Blue Rock Village complex were rendered uninhabitable  
16           due to rodent or vermin infestation at any period;
- 17           b. Whether Defendants' late fees/penalties, including those imposed on assessments for  
18           sewer, water, and garbage, were improper and exorbitant liquidated damages;
- 19           c. Whether Defendants' early termination fees are legal;
- 20           d. Whether Defendants have a policy or practice of charging tenants rent for any period  
21           of time beyond 30 days after providing Defendants notice of their intent to vacate;
- 22           e. Whether the above policies violate Defendants' form lease agreements;
- 23           f. Whether properly itemization for deductions from security deposits are timely  
24           provided to Defendants' tenants;
- 25           g. Whether notices of charges to security deposits to tenants were timely mailed out or  
26           personally delivered to former tenants; and
- 27           h. Whether the above-mentioned policies and practices violate the UCL as unfair or  
28           unlawful practices.



1           110. Defendants failed to remediate the infestation within a reasonable period of time, and  
2 indeed, failed to remedy the condition at all.

3           111. As a proximate result of these breaches, Wongsaroj, Leaser, Magee, and the  
4 Habitability Class have suffered damages in an amount according to proof, including an over-  
5 payment of rent for their apartments, emotional distress to Wongsaroj, the loss of certain personal  
6 property belonging to Wongsaroj, constructive eviction, and moving expenses both in and out of the  
7 Apartment and other apartments that members of the Habitability Class had occupied. The breach  
8 also constituted a constructive eviction of Leaser, Wongsaroj, Magee, and other members of the  
9 Habitability Class.

10           112. Total damages to Leaser and Wongsaroj alone as a proximate result of the breach are  
11 in no event less than \$20,000.00.

12           113. Leaser, Wongsaroj, and Magee are informed and believe and thereon allege that the  
13 damages to members of the Habitability Class proximately caused by this breach are in no event less  
14 than one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

15           114. Leaser, Wongsaroj, and Magee are informed and believe and therefore allege that the  
16 lease applicable to the Habitability Class members contains a provision allowing the lessor to recover  
17 attorney's fees and costs to enforce the lease agreement. Under California Civil Code 1717, this  
18 provision must be interpreted as awarding attorney's fees and costs to the party who is determined  
19 to be the party prevailing on the lease, whether or not they are the party specified in the lease to  
20 recover attorney's fees. Leaser, Wongsaroj, and Magee are therefore entitled to an award of  
21 reasonable attorney's fees and costs in this action. Leaser, Wongsaroj, and Magee are also informed  
22 and believe and thereon allege that they are entitled to an award of attorney's fees under Code of  
23 Civil Procedure section 1021.5, as this action will result in the enforcement of an important right  
24 affecting the public interest.

25           115. Prime Ascot Acquisition, LLC is liable to Leaser, Wongsaroj, Magee, and the other  
26 members of the Habitability Class as the general partner of Prime Ascot, L.P.

116. The breach of the implied warranty by the Defendants named herein was tortious, malicious, and oppressive, and entitles Leaser, Wongsaroj, Magee, and members of the Habitability Class to an award of punitive damages in an amount according to proof.

**SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

(Tortious Breach of Warranty of Quiet Possession and Enjoyment)

(By Plaintiffs Leaser, Wongsaroj, and Magee on behalf of themselves and the Habitability Class against Defendants Prime Ascot, L.P., Prime Ascot Acquisition, LLC, Prime Administration, LLC, and Does 31 through 50, inclusive)

117. Leaser, Wongsaroj, and Magee incorporate herein by reference all of the allegations set forth above, as though fully set forth below. The lease described above for the Leaser Apartment, the Magee Apartment, and the lease for each member of the Habitability Class, contains an implied warranty of quiet possession and enjoyment, which is breached by any interference by the landlord that deprives the tenant of the beneficial enjoyment of the premises or renders it unfit for habitation.

118. The Defendants named in this cause of action breached the implied warranty of quiet possession and enjoyment by failing to remedy the infestation of mice, despite their knowledge thereof.

119. As a proximate result of these Defendants' breach, Wongsaroj, Leaser, Magee, and the Habitability Class have suffered damages in an amount according to proof, including an overpayment of rent for the apartments of Wongsaroj, Leaser, Magee and the Habitability Class, emotional distress to Wongsaroj, the loss of certain personal property belonging to Wongsaroj, and moving expenses both in and out of the Leaser Apartment, the Magee Apartment, and apartments that members of the Habitability Class had occupied. The breach also constituted a constructive eviction of Leaser, Wongsaroj, Magee, and other members of the Habitability Class.

120. Leaser, Wongsaroj, and Magee are informed and believe and therefore allege that the lease applicable to the Habitability Class members contains a provision allowing the Lessor to recover attorney's fees and costs to enforce the lease agreement. Under California Civil Code 1717, this provision must be interpreted as awarding attorney's fees and costs to the party who is determined to be the party prevailing on the lease, whether or not they are the party specified in the

1 lease to recover attorney's fees. Leaser, Wongsaroj, and Magee are therefore entitled to an award of  
2 reasonable attorney's fees and costs in this action. Leaser, Wongsaroj, and Magee are also informed  
3 and believe and thereon allege that they are entitled to an award of attorney's fees under Code of  
4 Civil Procedure section 1021.5, as this action will result in the enforcement of an important right  
5 affecting the public interest.

6 121. Total damages to Leaser and Wongsaroj alone as a proximate result of the breach are  
7 in no event less than \$20,000.00.

8 122. Leaser and Wongsaroj are informed and believe and thereon allege that the damages  
9 to members of the Habitability class proximately caused by this breach are in no event less than one  
10 million dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

11 123. Prime Ascot Acquisition, LLC is liable to Leaser, Wongsaroj, Magee, and all other  
12 members of the Habitability Class as the general partner of Prime Ascot, L.P.

13 124. The breach of the implied warranty of quiet enjoyment and possession by the  
14 Defendants named in this cause of action was tortious, malicious, and oppressive, and entitles  
15 Leaser, Wongsaroj, Magee, and members of the Habitability Class to an award of punitive damages  
16 in an amount according to proof.

17 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

18 (Negligence)

19 (By Plaintiffs Leaser, Wongsaroj, and Magee on behalf of themselves and the Habitability

20 Class against Defendants Prime Ascot, L.P., Prime Ascot Acquisition, LLC,

21 Prime Administration, LLC, and Does 31 through 50, inclusive)

22 125. Leaser, Wongsaroj, and Magee incorporate herein by reference all of the allegations  
23 set forth above, as though fully set forth below.

24 126. The Defendants named in this cause of action owed Leaser, Wongsaroj, Magee, and  
25 each member of the Habitability Class a duty to provide a safe apartment free of vermin, under the  
26 standards set forth in Civil Code sections 1941 and 1941.1.

1 127. The Defendants named in this cause of action breached this duty by providing Leaser,  
2 Wongsaroj, Magee, and each member of the Habitability Class with a vermin-infested apartment,  
3 and by failing to rid the apartment of the vermin.

4 128. As a proximate result of this breach, Wongsaroj, Leaser, Magee, and the Habitability  
5 Class have suffered damages in an amount according to proof, including an over-payment of rent  
6 for the Leaser Apartment, the Magee Apartment and the other apartments rented to members of the  
7 Habitability Class, emotional distress to Wongsaroj, the loss of certain personal property belonging  
8 to Wongsaroj, and moving expenses both in and out of the Leaser Apartment, the Magee Apartment,  
9 and other apartments that members of the Habitability Class had occupied. The breach also  
10 constituted a constructive eviction of Leaser, Wongsaroj, Magee, and other members of the  
11 Habitability Class.

12 129. Total damages to Wongsaroj and Leaser as a result of this negligence are at least  
13 twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00).

14 130. Leaser, Wongsaroj, and Magee are informed and believe and thereon allege that the  
15 damages to members of the Habitability Class proximately caused by this negligence are in no event  
16 less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

17 131. Prime Ascot Acquisition, LLC is liable to Leaser, Wongsaroj, Magee, and all other  
18 members of the Habitability Class as the general partner of Prime Ascot, L.P.

19 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

20 (Nuisance)

21 (By Plaintiffs Leaser, Wongsaroj, and Magee on behalf of themselves and the Habitability  
22 Class against Defendants Prime Ascot, L.P., Prime Ascot Acquisition, LLC,  
23 Prime Administration, LLC, and Does 31 through 50, inclusive)

24 132. Leaser, Wongsaroj, and Magee incorporate herein by reference all of the allegations  
25 set forth above, as though fully set forth herein.

26 133. The Defendants named in this cause of action caused and allowed a nuisance to  
27 remain in the Blue Rock Village complex, by allowing an infestation of vermin to occur and by  
28 failing to take appropriate steps to eliminate the infestation.





141. The Defendants named in this cause of action knew, as of May 25, 2017, that the Leaser Apartment suffered from a mice infestation and was uninhabitable as a result. The Defendants named in this cause of action also intentionally failed to disclose this fact to Leaser and Wongsaroj, who were ignorant of this fact at that time.

142. Leaser and Wongsaroj justifiably relied on the silence of the Defendants named in this cause of action by signing their respective leases, and Wongsaroj further relied on this silence by moving into the Leaser Apartment. Neither Leaser or Wongsaroj would have done these things had the Defendants named in this cause of action disclosed the infestation.

143. As a proximate result of the misrepresentation by the Defendants named in this cause of action, Leaser and Wongsaroj have suffered damages in an amount according to proof, including an over-payment of rent for the Leaser Apartment, emotional distress to Wongsaroj, the loss of certain personal property belonging to Wongsaroj, and moving expenses both in and out of the Leaser Apartment. Total damages to Wongsaroj and Leaser as a result of the misrepresentation are in no event less than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00).

144. Prime Ascot Acquisition, LLC is liable to Leaser and Wongsaroj as the general partner of Prime Ascot, L.P.

145. The conduct of the Defendants named in this cause of action was tortious, fraudulent, malicious, and oppressive, and entitles Leaser and Wongsaroj to an award of punitive damages in an amount according to proof.

## SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Breach of Contract)

(By Plaintiffs Leaser, Wongsaroj, Magee, and Eisman on behalf of themselves and Excessive Fees Class and the Security Deposit Class, against Defendants Prime Ascot, L.P., Prime Ascot Acquisition, LLC, Prime/Park LaBrea Titleholder, LLC, and Does 31 through 50, inclusive)

146. Plaintiffs incorporate herein by reference all of the allegations set forth above, as though fully set forth below.

1           147. This cause of action relates to Plaintiffs, and each of the members of the Excessive  
2 Fees Class and Security Deposit Class that had leases for the rental of an apartment at Blue Rock  
3 Village or Park LaBrea, owned and/or operated by one or more of the named Defendants.

4           148. Plaintiffs performed their obligations under their lease, or the performance of those  
5 obligations were excused. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that the same is true  
6 for the other members of the Excessive Fees Class and the Security Deposit Class that had leases for  
7 the rental of an apartment at Blue Rock Village or Park LaBrea.

8           149. The requirements of Civil Code sections 1950.5, 1951.2, and 1951.4 are also  
9 implicitly a part of the lease agreement between the Defendants named in this cause of action and  
10 Plaintiffs and the members of the aforementioned proposed classes that had leases for the rental of  
11 an apartment at Blue Rock Village or Park LaBrea.

12           150. The named Defendants breached their leases with members of the Excessive Fees  
13 Class that had leases for the rental of an apartment at Blue Rock Village or Park LaBrea by charging  
14 an “early termination fee” against class members’ deposits for vacating their apartment before the  
15 end of the fixed term of their leases, even though the apartments were re-leased in less than one  
16 month and Defendants’ damages from the early move out, if any, were far less than the fees charged.

17           151. The named Defendants breached their leases with members of the Excessive Fees  
18 Class that had leases for the rental of an apartment at Blue Rock Village or Park LaBrea by  
19 continuing to charge rent beyond the thirtieth (30th) day following the a member of these proposed  
20 classes providing a notice to vacate in accordance with the terms of their lease.

21           152. The named Defendants breached their leases with members of the Excessive Fees  
22 Class that had leases for the rental of an apartment at Blue Rock Village or Park LaBrea by  
23 improperly deducting their security deposits for painting charges based on an improper  
24 determination of useful life.

25           153. The named Defendants breached their leases with members of the Security Deposit  
26 Class that had leases for the rental of an apartment at Blue Rock Village or Park LaBrea by not  
27 timely providing tenants notice of the charges against their security deposits as described above.  
28

154. As a proximate result of these breaches, members of the Excessive Fees Class and Security Deposit Class that had leases for the rental of an apartment at Blue Rock Village or Park LaBrea have suffered damages in an amount according to proof. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that these damages are in no event less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

155. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and therefore allege that the lease applicable to members of the Excessive Fees Class and Security Deposit Class that had leases for the rental of an apartment at Blue Rock Village or Park LaBrea contains a provision allowing the Lessor to recover attorney's fees and costs to enforce the lease agreements. Under California Civil Code 1717, this provision must be interpreted as awarding attorney's fees and costs to the party who is determined to be the party prevailing on the lease, whether or not they are the party specified in the lease to recover attorney's fees. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs in this action. Plaintiffs are also informed and believe and thereon allege that they are entitled to an award of attorney's fees under Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, as this action will result in the enforcement of an important right affecting the public interest.

## **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

(Violation of Civil Code section 1950.5)

(By Plaintiffs Leaser, Wongsaroj, and Eisman on behalf of themselves and the Security Deposit Class, against Defendants Prime Administration, LLC; Prime Ascot, L.P., Prime Ascot Acquisition, LLC; and Prime/Park LaBrea Titleholder, LLC)

156. Plaintiffs incorporate herein by reference all of the allegations set forth above, as though fully set forth below.

157. California Civil Code section 1950.5 contains strict limitations on what items may be deducted from a tenant's security deposit, what must be provided to tenants when deductions are made for repairs, and the timing of the notice to a tenant as to these deductions.

158. Specifically, pursuant to Civil Code section 1950.5(g)(1), within “21 calendar days after the tenant has vacated the premises... the landlord shall furnish the tenant, by personal delivery or by first class mail, postage prepaid, a copy of an itemized statement indicating the basis for, and the amount of, any security received and the disposition of the security and shall return any

1 remaining portion of the security to the tenant.” Defendant Prime Administration, LLC is a  
 2 “landlord” for the purposes of Civil Code section 1950.5 because, as described above, Prime  
 3 Administration, LLC actively and directly demanded and collected security deposits from Plaintiffs.<sup>9</sup>  
 4 Prime Administration, LLC also corresponded with Plaintiffs about security deposits, including  
 5 claimed charges/deductions from security deposits, and provided Plaintiffs with itemized statements  
 6 relating to claimed charges/deductions from security deposits. Prime Administration, LLC similarly  
 7 collected security deposits and engaged in the above-described conduct in relation to all members  
 8 of the Security Deposit Class that resided at the Prime Properties, including those residing at Prime  
 9 Properties other than Blue Rock Village and Park La Brea. Defendant Prime Ascot, L.P. and  
 10 Prime/Park LaBrea Titleholder, LLC are landlords subject to Section 1950.5 because, as described  
 11 above, they are identified as the owners of Blue Rock Village and Park La Brea on the leases of  
 12 tenants of those properties within the Security Deposit Class, which Defendants have acknowledged.  
 13 *See* Dkt No. 6, p. 19 (“[Plaintiffs] fail[] to state a claim against any of the Defendants ***besides their***  
 14 ***actual landlords with whom they had rental agreements***-Prime Ascot, [L.P.] (Named Plaintiffs  
 15 Leaser, Wongsaroj, and Magee) and Prime/Park LaBrea Titleholder, LLC (Named Plaintiff  
 16 Eisman).”) (emphasis added); Dkt. No. 26, p. 12 (acknowledging same). Defendant Prime  
 17 Administration, LLC also, upon information and belief, sets the security deposit amounts, and sets  
 18 and effectuates policies related to charges to and deductions from security deposits for every unit at  
 19 every one of the Prime Properties in California.

20 159. The requirements of Civil Code section 1950.5 are also implicitly a part of the lease  
 21 agreement between the Defendants named in this cause of action and Plaintiffs. The same is true of  
 22 the lease agreements between Defendants named in this case of action and all members of the  
 23 Security Deposit Class.

24 160. The Defendants named in this cause of action have violated section 1950.5 of the  
 25 California Civil Code and breached their leases with the people described in the preceding paragraph  
 26 in the following fashion:

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27 <sup>9</sup> *See Zeff v. Greystar Real Estate Partners, LLC*, 2021 WL 632614, at \*8 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 18, 2021)  
 28 (“any individual or entity who collects a security deposit from a tenant may be held liable for  
 violating the requirements of § 1950.5”) (relying on *Kraus v. Trinity Mgmt. Servs. Inc.*, 57 Cal.  
 App. 4th 709, 67 Cal.Rptr.2d 210 (1997)).

1 a. Defendants have violated section 1950.5 as to members of the Security Deposit Class  
2 by improperly deducting painting charges based on an improper useful life from  
3 members' security deposits.

4 b. Defendants have violated section 1950.5 as to the members of the Security Deposit  
5 by not timely providing tenants with proper notice and documentation of the charges  
6 against their security deposits in compliance with section 1950.5, including as  
7 described above.

8 161. As a proximate result of the failures described above, the members of the Security  
9 Deposit Class described herein have been injured in an amount according to proof. Plaintiffs are  
10 informed and believe and thereon allege that the total amount of damages is at least two million  
11 dollars (\$2,000,000.00).

12 162. The Defendants who are general partners of the limited partnership Defendants who  
13 nominally hold title to any Prime Properties are liable by virtue of their positions as general partners  
14 of such limited partnerships.

15 163. Plaintiffs and the members of the Security Deposit Class described herein are entitled  
16 to attorney's fees as a result of the provision for such in their respective leases as described above.  
17 Plaintiffs are also entitled to an award of attorney's fees under Code of Civil Procedure section  
18 1021.5, as this action will result in the enforcement of an important right affecting the public interest.

19 164. The conduct of the Defendants named in this cause of action was undertaken in "bad  
20 faith," as that term is used in Civil Code section 1950.5(1), and entitles Plaintiffs and the other  
21 members of the proposed classes named herein to statutory damages equal to twice the amount of  
22 the security, in addition to their actual damages.

23 165. The conduct of the Defendants named in this cause of action was oppressive and  
24 malicious and entitles Plaintiffs and the other members of the proposed classes named herein to  
25 punitive damages in an amount according to proof.

**EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

(Violation of Business & Professions Code section 17200 et seq.)

(By Plaintiffs on behalf of themselves and all classes and subclasses as against all Defendants)

166. Plaintiffs incorporate herein by reference all of the allegations set forth above, as though fully set forth below.

167. The UCL prohibits businesses from engaging in any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business acts or practices.

168. As described above, Defendants have leased apartments to Leaser, Wongsaroj, Magee, and members of the Habitability Class in the Blue Rock Village complex that are infested with mice and other vermin, all in violation of California Civil Code section 1941.1(6). The rental of apartments in violation of this code section is therefore an unlawful business practice under California Business and Professions Code section 17200. In addition, these business practices are unfair in that: (1) the practices offend established public policies regarding the protection of tenants, (2) the practices are also immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, and substantially injurious to tenants, and (3) and the injury to tenants is substantial, and is not outweighed by any countervailing benefits of Defendants' practices to consumers or competition. These practices result in charging tenants unfair amounts of rent, leading to constructive and actual evictions of tenants and improper collection actions by the Defendants. These harms to the tenants greatly outweigh the utility, if any, of the practices.

169. Separately, as described above, Defendants engaged in a policy and practice of imposing and collecting excessive late rent and late utility payment penalties (aka late fees) from Plaintiffs and members of the Excessive Fees Class that constitute unlawful acts and practices prohibited by California Civil Code section 1671 and, as such, are also prohibited by the UCL.

170. Separately, the Defendants' policy and practice with respect to imposing excessive late fees is also "unfair" because it has a great and deleterious effect on its victims (including Plaintiffs, the Excessive Fees Class, and law-abiding competitors) and it has no legal justification. The Defendants' motives in imposing these fees are driven purely by anticipated profits and without regard to their legality. These fees are particularly unfair in instances where the late fees stem from

1 sewer, water, or garbage charges that are added to tenants' accounts after they have paid their rent  
2 or after payment was already due. The fees are also penal in nature and violate the public policy  
3 embodied in California Civil Code section 1671.

4 171. Further, on information and belief Defendants intentionally apply California tenants'  
5 payment to their previously recorded debt first (including the assessed penalties), rather than the rent  
6 due for the month in which payment is actually made. Unless an Excessive Fees Class member takes  
7 that into account in making their rent payment, the Defendants considers that month's "rent" as not  
8 paid in full and then assesses another late rent penalty despite tenants' full and timely monthly rent  
9 payment. As a result, the Defendants charge a late fee on a balance that may be smaller than the  
10 amount of the late fee to begin with. As a result, tenants incur repeated late penalties. The only  
11 purpose of this policy and practice is to unduly penalize members of the Excessive Fees Class, not  
12 actually provide for any damages suffered by Defendant. The practice of charging late fees on  
13 outstanding late fees and other balance amounts other than the monthly rent itself is an also an unfair  
14 and illegal business practice no different than the "pyramiding" of late fees by banks that has  
15 similarly found to be unlawful.

16 172. In addition, the Defendants' business policies and practices offend established public  
17 policies regarding the protection of consumers and tenants and the practices are also immoral,  
18 unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, and substantially injurious to consumers and tenants. Indeed,  
19 these practices cause tenants to have to pay substantial sums that are completely divorced from  
20 whatever minimal inconvenience or damage, if any, might be felt by the Defendants as a result of  
21 some late rent, or partial payment of rent. Not only do these practices result in the taking of unfair  
22 sums of money from tenants, but also result in unfairly ruined credit and unlawful evictions. These  
23 harms to the tenants greatly outweigh the utility, if any, of the practice. Therefore, these practices  
24 are unfair in that: (1) the practices offend established public policies regarding the protection of  
25 tenants, (2) the practices are also immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, and substantially  
26 injurious to tenants, and (3) and the injury to tenants is substantial, and is not outweighed by any  
27 countervailing benefits of Defendants' practices to consumers or competition.



1           173. Separately, as described above, the Defendants also engaged in a policy and practice  
2 of improperly charging the Excessive Fees Class continued rent even when tenants provided  
3 adequate notice of termination, in violation of the Defendants' leases with its tenants. Because  
4 Defendants' policy and practice of charging such unlawful rent violates Civil Code § 1951.2, it is an  
5 unlawful business act or practice which causes Plaintiffs and members of the proposed classes to  
6 suffer financial injury, and is prohibited by the UCL. It is also an unfair business act or practice in  
7 violation of the UCL as: (1) the practices offend established public policies regarding the protection  
8 of tenants, (2) the practices are also immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, and substantially  
9 injurious to tenants, and (3) and the injury to tenants is substantial, and is not outweighed by any  
10 countervailing benefits of Defendants' practices to consumers or competition.

11           174. Separately, as described above, the Defendants also engaged in a policy and practice  
12 of charging the Excessive Fees Class early termination fees regardless of the damages, if any,  
13 suffered by Defendants by such "early" terminations of leases. As Defendants do not allow their  
14 tenants to sublease or assign their residences under their Defendants' form lease agreements,  
15 Defendants have a duty to attempt to re-lease tenants' apartments to mitigate their damages under  
16 Civil Code sections 1951.2 and 1951.4. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that Defendants'  
17 imposition of a full early termination fee notwithstanding Defendants efforts or lack thereof to  
18 mitigate damages is a liquidated damages penalty, and is void under California Civil Code § 1671(d)  
19 because it is excessive and bears no relation to any actual damages incurred by Defendants when  
20 tenants terminate their lease early. Because Defendants' policy and practice of charging excessive  
21 early termination fees violates Civil Code § 1671(d), it is an unlawful business act or practice which  
22 causes Plaintiffs and other tenants financial injury, and is prohibited by the UCL. It is also an unfair  
23 business act or practice in violation of the UCL as: (1) the practices offend established public policies  
24 regarding the protection of tenants, (2) the practices are also immoral, unethical, oppressive,  
25 unscrupulous, and substantially injurious to tenants, and (3) and the injury to tenants is substantial,  
26 and is not outweighed by any countervailing benefits of Defendants' practices to consumers or  
27 competition.

28           175. Separately, as described above, the Defendants also engaged in a policy and practice

1 of demanding and collecting security deposits from the Security Deposit Class and then failing to  
2 comply with California law regarding the charging and refunding of those security deposits,  
3 including but not limited to providing a properly itemized statement of deductions from tenants'  
4 security deposits within 21 days including applicable receipts. Because Defendants' policies and  
5 practices violates Civil Code 1950.5, it is an unlawful business act or practice prohibited by the  
6 UCL. It is also an unfair business act or practice in violation of the UCL as: (1) the practices offend  
7 established public policies regarding the protection of tenants, (2) the practices are also immoral,  
8 unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, and substantially injurious to tenants, and (3) and the injury to  
9 tenants is substantial, and is not outweighed by any countervailing benefits of Defendants' practices  
10 to consumers or competition.

11 176. Plaintiffs and the members of the Habitability Class, Excessive Fees Class, and  
12 Security Deposit Class have suffered injury in fact and lost money or property pursuant to California  
13 Business and Professions Code section 17204 as a result of Defendant's unlawful and/or unfair  
14 business acts or practices.

15 177. As a result of these unlawful business acts and practices, the Defendants have reaped  
16 unfair benefits and illegal profits, at the expense of Plaintiffs and members of the proposed classes  
17 described in this cause of action. Plaintiffs and the members of the proposed classes are therefore  
18 entitled to an order of restitution requiring the Defendants to restore to Plaintiffs and members of  
19 the proposed classes the money which Defendants have acquired by means of their unlawful and  
20 unfair business acts and practices, including the amount of rent paid in excess of the fair rental value  
21 of the apartments rented by the members of the Habitability Class, excessive late penalties for  
22 payment of rent or utilities, early termination fees, and improperly withheld security deposits, with  
23 accrued interest. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that the total amount of  
24 restitution owed to Plaintiffs and the members of the proposed classes is at least two million dollars  
25 (\$2,000,000.00).

26 178. All such remedies are cumulative of relief available under other laws, pursuant to  
27 California Business and Professions Code section 17205.

28

179. Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the members of the Habitability Class, Excessive Fees Class, and Security Deposit Class are also entitled to and hereby seek injunctive relief, including public injunctive relief, prohibiting further violations of Civil Codes sections 1671, 1941.1(6) and 1950.5.

180. Plaintiffs are also entitled to attorney's fees under Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, as this action will result in the enforcement of an important right affecting the public interest.

**JURY DEMAND**

181. Plaintiffs respectfully request a jury trial on all claims and issues so triable.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against Defendants and seek relief as follows:

1. That the Court determine this action may be maintained as a class action under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, define the proposed classes as requested above, and to approve Plaintiffs' counsel as class counsel;

2. For monetary damages in an amount according to proof, but in no event are less than \$20,000.00 for Leaser and Wongsaroj, and no less than Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) for the members of the various classes;

3. For statutory damages for Plaintiffs and all affected class members pursuant to Civil Code section 1950.5(1);

4. For restitution under the Unfair Competition Law, Business & Professions Code section 17200 et seq. as well as public injunctive relief under the UCL;

5. For disgorgement of all monies by which Defendants have been unjustly enriched or otherwise owe Plaintiffs and members of the various classes under a theory of quasi-contract;

6. For exemplary damages in an amount according to proof;

7. For reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit;

8. For pre-judgment interest;

9. For an injunction prohibiting further breaches of California Civil Code sections 1671, 1941.1(6) and 1950.5 by any of the Defendants in this action, and requiring those Defendants to rent apartments free of mice infestation, to cease from charging improper late fees and early termination

1 fees, to cease from making the charges described above against security deposits, to provide all  
2 tenants with receipts along with the statement as to their security deposit, and to provide those  
3 statements and receipts within the time set by California Civil Code section 1950.5; and

4 10. For such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.  
5

6 Respectfully submitted:

7 DATED: April 4, 2022

**NICHOLAS & TOMASEVIC, LLP**

8  
9 By: /s/ Ethan T. Litney

Craig M. Nicholas  
Alex Tomasevic  
Ethan T. Litney  
225 Broadway, Floor 19  
San Diego, California 92101  
Telephone: (619) 325-0492  
Facsimile: (619) 325-0496  
Email: cnicholas@nicholaslaw.org  
Email: atomasevic@nicholaslaw.org  
Email: elitney@nicholaslaw.org